

Amendments To Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A data processing method for converting at least a portion of loyalty points stored in a loyalty account of a participant, wherein said loyalty account is associated with said participant within a loyalty program database system, comprising said computer-implemented steps of:

receiving, at by a computer, a payment authorization request related to an available credit for a full purchase amount of a transaction, wherein said payment authorization request includes a merchant identifier associated with a first merchant;

~~issuing, by said computer, a challenge based on said payment authorization request and forwarding said challenge to said participant, wherein said challenge is passed to an intelligent token for processing said challenge, wherein said intelligent token generates a response to said challenge;~~

~~receiving, at said computer, a response from said participant based upon said challenge; processing, at said computer, said response and verifying said intelligent token;~~

~~assembling, at said computer, credentials for said payment authorization request, wherein said credentials comprise a key;~~

~~providing, by said computer, said assembled credentials to said participant;~~

~~receiving, at said computer, a second request from said participant, wherein said second request including said portion of said assembled credentials provided to said participant;~~

~~validating, at said computer, said portion of said assembled credentials provided to said participant with said key of said assembled credentials providing access to purchase said account code;~~

~~determining, at said computer, in response to said account code being equal to one of a plurality of valid account codes, wherein in response to said account code being equal to one of said plurality of valid account codes, comparing said purchase value to said monetary value associated with said account code to determine when said monetary value exceeds said purchase value;~~

~~in response to said monetary value exceeding said purchase value, sending a purchase authorization message authorizing said purchase transaction;~~

~~subtracting said purchase value from said monetary value associated with said account code to obtain an available credit associated with said account code;~~

approving, by said computer, said payment authorization request for any of said full purchase amount up to said available credit associated with said account code;

increasing, by said computer, a balance of loyalty points associated with said account code to obtain an increased balance of loyalty points, subsequent to said approving said payment authorization request, and based upon loyalty program rules for earning loyalty points;

providing, by said computer and over a web interface, a webpage disclosing said transaction and said full purchase amount in a first section of said webpage, and a balance of loyalty points in a second section of said webpage, along with a device within said webpage for enabling application of a currency value of at least a portion of said loyalty points to said full purchase amount in a previously executed charge, wherein said previously executed charge is provided to said participant in an online billing statement;

receiving, at by said computer and from said participant using said device, a request to apply a currency value of at least a portion of said increased balance of loyalty points to at least a portion of said full purchase amount;

retrieving, by said computer, information from said loyalty program database, including an amount of at least a portion of said loyalty points accumulated by said participant;

performing, by said computer, an analysis of said merchant identifier to determine a conversion ratio based on said merchant identifier and based on either a date of said transaction, inventory data, status of said participant, or method of facilitating said transaction;

presenting, by said computer, said participant with a request to approve said conversion ratio;

receiving, by said computer, an indicator of at least one of: an approval and disapproval of said conversion ratio from said participant, wherein said transaction is canceled in response to said indicator being a disapproval of said conversion ratio;

receiving a request, by said computer over a web interface, from said participant to convert said loyalty points already existing in said loyalty program database to said currency value using said conversion ratio;

retrieving, by said computer in real time, said loyalty points from said loyalty program database system, wherein said loyalty points include points from a second merchant;

converting, by said computer in real time, said amount of said loyalty points to said currency value using a computerized conversion processor, wherein said conversion is based on said conversion ratio;

applying, by said computer in real time, said currency value as a credit to a financial account of said participant, wherein said financial account is stored on a second database system;

offsetting, by said computer over said web interface and in real time, said previously executed charge with said currency value; and,

increasing, by said computer and in real time, said available credit based upon said offset of said previously executed charge.

Claim 2 (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of applying said currency value as a credit to at least one of a financial transaction account of a third party, a stored value account of a third party and an online digital wallet account of a third party.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of applying said currency value as a credit to at least one of a gift product and a secondary transaction number.

5. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for using loyalty points over a computerized network, comprising :

receiving, at by a computer, a payment authorization request related to an available credit for a full purchase amount of a transaction, wherein said payment authorization request includes a merchant identifier associated with a first merchant;

~~issuing, by said computer, a challenge based on said payment authorization request and forwarding said challenge to said participant, wherein said challenge is passed to an intelligent token for processing said challenge, wherein said intelligent token generates a response to said challenge;~~

~~receiving, at said computer, a response from said participant based upon said challenge;~~

~~processing, at said computer, said response and verifying said intelligent token;~~
~~assembling, at said computer, credentials for said payment authorization request, wherein~~
~~said credentials comprise a key;~~
~~providing, by said computer, said assembled credentials to said participant;~~
~~receiving, at said computer, a second request from said participant, said second request~~
~~including said portion of said assembled credentials provided to said participant;~~
~~validating, at said computer, said portion of said assembled credentials provided to said~~
~~participant with said key of said assembled credentials providing access to purchase said account~~
~~code;~~
~~determining, at said computer, in response to said account code being equal to one of a~~
~~plurality of valid account codes, wherein in response to said account code being equal to one of~~
~~said plurality of valid account codes, comparing said purchase value to said monetary value~~
~~associated with said account code to determine when said monetary value exceeds said purchase~~
~~value;~~
~~in response to said monetary value exceeding said purchase value, sending a purchase~~
~~authorization message authorizing said purchase transaction;~~
~~subtracting said purchase value from said monetary value associated with said account~~
~~code to obtain an available credit associated with said account code;~~
~~approving, by said computer, said payment authorization request for any of said full~~
~~purchase amount up to said available credit associated with said account code;~~
~~increasing, by said computer, a balance of loyalty points associated with said account~~
~~code to obtain an increased balance of loyalty points, subsequent to said approving said payment~~
~~authorization request, and based upon loyalty program rules for earning loyalty points;~~
~~providing, by said computer and over a web interface, a webpage disclosing said~~
~~transaction and said full purchase amount in a first section of said webpage, and a balance of~~
~~loyalty points in a second section of said webpage, along with a device within said webpage for~~
~~enabling application of a currency value of at least a portion of said increased balance of said~~
~~loyalty points to said full purchase amount in a previously executed charge, wherein said~~
~~previously executed charge is provided to said participant in an online billing statement;~~
~~receiving, at by said computer and from said participant using said device, a request to~~
~~apply a currency value of said loyalty points to at least a portion of said full purchase amount;~~

retrieving, by said computer, information from said loyalty program database, including an amount of at least a portion of said loyalty points accumulated by said participant from merchants other than said first merchant;

performing, by said computer, an analysis of said merchant identifier to determine a conversion ratio based on said merchant identifier and based on either a date of said transaction, inventory data, status of said participant, or method of facilitating said transaction;

presenting, by said computer, said participant with a request to approve said conversion ratio;

receiving, by said computer, an indicator of at least one of: an approval and disapproval of said conversion ratio from said participant, wherein said transaction is canceled in response to said indicator being a disapproval of said conversion ratio;

receiving a request, by said computer over a web interface, from said participant to convert said loyalty points already existing in said loyalty program database to said currency value using said conversion ratio;

retrieving, by said computer in real time, said loyalty points from said loyalty program database system;

converting, by said computer in real time, said amount of said loyalty points to said currency value using a computerized conversion processor, wherein said conversion is based on said conversion ratio;

applying, by said computer in real time, said currency value as a credit to a financial account of said participant, wherein said financial account is stored on a second database system;

offsetting, by said computer over said web interface and in real time, said previously executed charge with said currency value; and,

increasing, by said computer and in real time, said available credit based upon said offset of said previously executed charge.

6. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 5, wherein said step of applying said currency value as a credit comprises applying said currency value as a credit to said financial account of said participant.

7. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 5, further comprising the step of applying, by said computer, said currency value as a credit to at least one

of: a financial transaction account of a third party, a stored value account of a third party and an online digital wallet account of a third party.

8. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 5, further comprising the step of applying, by said computer, said currency value as a credit to at least one of a gift product and a secondary transaction number.

9. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 5, wherein said step of communicating with said participant comprises communicating with said participant over a wire-based network.

10. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 5, wherein said step of communicating with said participant comprises communicating with said participant over a wireless network.

11. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

registering, at said computer, said participant to use a loyalty program, wherein said loyalty program comprises said loyalty program database system;

establishing, by said computer, said loyalty account for said participant, wherein said loyalty account information is stored within said loyalty program database system; and

authenticating, at said computer, said participant to use said loyalty program.

12. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 5, wherein said step of retrieving information from a loyalty program operated by a third party.

13. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

integrating, by said computer, a computerized shopping network to facilitate a transaction between said participant and at least one merchant, wherein said shopping network is configured to offer for sale to said participant, over said computerized network, a variety of products or services; and

receiving, at said computer from said participant, a request to use said loyalty points to facilitate said transaction with said at least one merchant.

14. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

receiving, at said computer, transaction details relating to said transaction, said transaction details comprising at least an amount of said transaction; and

receiving, at said computer from said participant, information relating to said financial transaction account to be used to complete said transaction, said financial transaction account information comprising at least an account number identifying said financial transaction account.

15. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

invoking, by said computer, a computerized process to verify that said loyalty account has sufficient loyalty points to cover an amount of said transaction;

invoking, by said computer, a computerized process to verify that said financial transaction account has a sufficient available credit to cover said amount of said transaction; and

approving, at said computer, said transaction in response to said loyalty points and said available credit being sufficient; whereupon a confirmation of said transaction is sent to said participant.

16. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 14, further comprising the step of:

invoking, by said computer, a computerized process to verify that a combined available balance of said loyalty account and said transaction account covers an amount of said transaction; whereupon, in response to said combined available balance being sufficient, said transaction is approved and a message is returned to said participant confirming said transaction.

17. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 14, comprising the further step of posting, by said computer, a charge associated with said transaction to said financial transaction account.

18. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 17, comprising the additional step of generating, by said computer, a billing statement for said financial transaction account reflecting said posted charge and said applied credit.

19. (currently amended) A data processing and host server system, including at least one application program and a plurality of databases, configured to facilitate a conversion of loyalty points stored in a loyalty account, wherein said loyalty account is associated with a participant within a loyalty program database system, comprising:

a computerized transaction authorization manager configured to receive a payment authorization request related to an available credit for a full purchase amount of a transaction, wherein said payment authorization request includes a merchant identifier associated with a first merchant;

~~said computerized transaction authorization manager configured to issue a challenge based on said payment authorization request and forwarding said challenge to said participant, wherein said challenge is passed to an intelligent token for processing said challenge, wherein said intelligent token generates a response to said challenge;~~

~~said computerized transaction authorization manager configured to receive a response from said participant based upon said challenge;~~

~~said computerized transaction authorization manager configured to process said response and verifying said intelligent token;~~

~~said computerized transaction authorization manager configured to assemble credentials for said payment authorization request, wherein said credentials comprise a key;~~

~~said computerized transaction authorization manager configured to provide said assembled credentials to said participant;~~

~~said computerized transaction authorization manager configured to receive a second request from said participant, said second request including said portion of said assembled credentials provided to said participant;~~

~~said computerized transaction authorization manager configured to validate said portion of said assembled credentials provided to said participant with said key of said assembled credentials providing access to purchase said account code;~~

~~said computerized transaction authorization manager configured to determine in response to said account code being equal to one of a plurality of valid account codes, wherein in response~~

~~to said account code being equal to one of said plurality of valid account codes, comparing said purchase value to said monetary value associated with said account code to determine when said monetary value exceeds said purchase value;~~

~~in response to said monetary value exceeding said purchase value, sending a purchase authorization message authorizing said purchase transaction;~~

~~said computerized transaction authorization manager configured to subtract said purchase value from said monetary value associated with said account code to obtain an available credit associated with said account code;~~

~~said computerized transaction authorization manager configured to approve said payment authorization request associated with said account code for any of said full purchase amount up to said available credit;~~

~~said computerized transaction authorization manager configured to increase a balance of loyalty points associated with said account code to obtain an increased balance of loyalty points, subsequent to said approving said payment authorization request, and based upon loyalty program rules for earning loyalty points;~~

~~said computerized transaction authorization manager configured to provide, over a web interface, a webpage disclosing said transaction and said full purchase amount in a first section of said webpage, and a balance of loyalty points in a second section of said webpage, along with a device within said webpage for enabling application of a currency value of at least a portion of said increased balance of said loyalty points to said full purchase amount in a previously executed charge, wherein said previously executed charge is provided to said participant in an online billing statement;~~

~~a computerized account manager user interface system configured to receive, from said participant using said device, a request to apply a currency value of said loyalty points to at least a portion of said full purchase amount, wherein said loyalty points are earned from merchants other than said first merchant;~~

~~a computerized account manager loyalty system middleware coupled to said computerized user interface system configured to interface with a loyalty program database system to access and retrieve information, including accumulated loyalty points, from said loyalty account;~~

~~a computerized account manager conversion processor configured to perform an analysis of said merchant identifier to determine a conversion ratio based on said merchant identifier and~~

based on at least one of: a date of said transaction, inventory data, status of said participant, and method of facilitating said transaction;

 said computerized account manager conversion processor configured to present said participant with a request to approve said conversion ratio;

 said computerized account manager conversion processor configured to receive an indicator of at least one of: an approval and disapproval of said conversion ratio from said participant, wherein said transaction is canceled in response to said indicator being a disapproval of said conversion ratio;

 said computerized account manager conversion processor configured to receive a request, over a web interface, from said participant to convert said loyalty points already existing in said loyalty program database system to said currency value using said conversion ratio;

 said computerized account manager conversion processor configured to retrieve, in real time, said loyalty points from said loyalty program database system;

 said computerized account manager conversion processor configured to convert, in real time, said loyalty points to said currency value and to facilitate an application of said currency value as a credit to a financial account of said participant, wherein said financial account is stored on a second database system and offsetting, in real time and over said web interface, a previously executed charge with said currency value; and,

 said computerized account manager conversion processor configured to increase, in real time, said available credit due to said offset of said previously executed charge.

20. (original) The system of claim 19, further comprising:

 a computerized interface between said account manager user interface system and a third party shopping network, wherein said third party shopping network facilitates a value transaction between merchants and said participants.

21. (previously presented) The system of claim 19, further comprising:

 a computerized shopping network configured to interface with said participant and at least one merchant to facilitate a value transaction, wherein said shopping network is programmed to:

 offer products for sale to said participant;

provide said participant with an option to convert loyalty points to said currency value credit to offset a purchase of a product;

process a request from said participant to purchase said product using said converted loyalty points;

receive a designated financial transaction account of said participant to be used to facilitate said transaction; and,

transmit transaction details to said computerized loyalty system middleware to facilitate said value transaction using said converted loyalty points.

22. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein said middleware is further configured to interface with a financial transaction system to post a transaction charge to said designated financial transaction account and to post said applied credit to said designated financial transaction account.

23. (currently amended) A computerized method for converting loyalty points to a currency credit to facilitate a transaction while shopping online, comprising the steps of:

presenting, by a computer, a searchable online catalog of products or services to a loyalty program participant;

receiving, by a computer, participant's selection of at least one product to purchase from said online catalog, wherein said participant chooses to pay with loyalty points;

receiving, ~~at a~~ by said computer, a payment authorization request related to an available credit for a full purchase amount of a transaction, wherein said payment authorization request includes a merchant identifier associated with a first merchant;

~~issuing, by said computer, a challenge based on said payment authorization request and forwarding said challenge to said participant, wherein said challenge is passed to an intelligent token for processing said challenge, wherein said intelligent token generates a response to said challenge;~~

~~receiving, at said computer, a response from said participant based upon said challenge;~~

~~processing, at said computer, said response and verifying said intelligent token;~~

~~assembling, at said computer, credentials for said payment authorization request, wherein said credentials comprise a key;~~

~~providing, by said computer, said assembled credentials to said participant;~~

~~receiving, at said computer, a second request from said participant, said second request including said portion of said assembled credentials provided to said participant;~~

~~validating, at said computer, said portion of said assembled credentials provided to said participant with said key of said assembled credentials providing access to purchase said account code;~~

~~determining, at said computer, in response to said account code being equal to one of a plurality of valid account codes, wherein in response to said account code being equal to one of said plurality of valid account codes, comparing said purchase value to said monetary value associated with said account code to determine when said monetary value exceeds said purchase value;~~

~~in response to said monetary value exceeding said purchase value, sending a purchase authorization message authorizing said purchase transaction;~~

~~subtracting, by said computer, said purchase value from said monetary value associated with said account code to obtain an available credit associated with said account code;~~

~~approving, by said computer, said payment authorization request associated with said account code for any of said full purchase amount up to said available credit;~~

~~increasing, by a computer, a balance of loyalty points associated with said account code to obtain an increased balance of loyalty points, subsequent to said approving said payment authorization request, and based upon loyalty program rules for earning loyalty points;~~

~~providing, by said computer and over a web interface, a webpage disclosing said transaction and said full purchase amount in a first section of said webpage, and a balance of loyalty points in a second section of said webpage, along with a device within said webpage for enabling application of a currency value of at least a portion of said increased balance of said loyalty points to said full purchase amount in a previously executed charge, wherein said previously executed charge is provided to said participant in an online billing statement;~~

~~retrieving, at by said computer, loyalty point information from participant's loyalty account having points earned from merchants other than said first merchant;~~

~~performing, by said computer, an analysis of said merchant identifier to determine a conversion ratio based on said merchant identifier and based on at least one of: a date of said transaction, inventory data, status of said participant, and method of facilitating said transaction;~~

~~presenting, by said computer, said participant with a request to approve said conversion ratio;~~

receiving, by said computer, an indicator of at least one of: an approval and disapproval of said conversion ratio from said participant, wherein said transaction is canceled in response to said indicator being a disapproval of said conversion ratio;

receiving, by said computer over a web interface, a request, over a web interface, from said participant to convert said loyalty points already existing in said loyalty program database system to said currency value using said conversion ratio;

retrieving, by said computer in real time, said loyalty points from said loyalty program database system;

invoking, by a computer, a conversion processor to calculate, at said computer in real time, a number of said loyalty points necessary to make said purchase, wherein said calculation is based on said conversion ratio;

confirming, by said computer in real time, that said participant has sufficient loyalty points to complete purchase;

retrieving, by said computer in real time, information from a participant's financial transaction account;

converting, at said computer in real time, said loyalty points to a currency credit based on said conversion ratio;

posting, by said computer in real time, said currency credit to said financial transaction account and offsetting a previously executed charge with said currency value; and,

increasing, by said computer in real time, said available credit due to said offset of said previously executed charge.

Claims 24-32 (canceled)

33. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for facilitating a transaction using loyalty points, comprising the steps of:

registering with an account manager to participate in a loyalty program;

providing authenticating information to an account manager in order to cause said account manager to verify that a participant is authorized to access said loyalty program;

selecting to redeem loyalty points associated with a loyalty account to facilitate a payment of at least a portion of a full purchase amount of said transaction, wherein said selection causes a merchant to transmit a payment authorization request related to an available credit for a

full amount of said transaction and a merchant identifier to an authorization system and, wherein said authorization system performs the steps of:

~~issuing, by said authorization system, a challenge based on said payment authorization request and forwarding said challenge to said participant, wherein said challenge is passed to an intelligent token for processing said challenge, wherein said intelligent token generates a response to said challenge;~~

~~receiving, at said authorization system, a response from said participant based upon said challenge;~~

~~processing, at said authorization system, said response and verifying said intelligent token;~~

~~assembling, at said authorization system, credentials for said payment authorization request, wherein said credentials comprise a key;~~

~~providing, by said authorization system, said assembled credentials to said participant;~~

~~receiving, at said authorization system, a second request from said participant, said second request including said portion of said assembled credentials provided to said participant;~~

~~validating, at said authorization system, said portion of said assembled credentials provided to said participant with said key of said assembled credentials providing access to purchase said account code;~~

~~determining, at said authorization system, in response to said account code being equal to one of a plurality of valid account codes, wherein in response to said account code being equal to one of said plurality of valid account codes, comparing said purchase value to said monetary value associated with said account code to determine when said monetary value exceeds said purchase value;~~

~~in response to said monetary value exceeding said purchase value, sending a purchase authorization message authorizing said purchase transaction for any of said full purchase amount up to said available credit;~~

~~increasing a balance of loyalty points associated with said account code to obtain an increased balance of loyalty points, subsequent to said approving said payment authorization request, and based upon loyalty program rules for earning loyalty points;~~

~~subtracting, at said authorization system, said purchase value from said monetary value associated with said account code to obtain an available credit associated with said account code;~~

providing, by said authorization system and over a web interface, a webpage disclosing said transaction and said full purchase amount in a first section of said webpage, and said increased balance of loyalty points in a second section of said webpage, along with a device within said webpage for enabling application of a currency value of at least a portion of said increased balance of said loyalty points associated with said account code to said full purchase amount in a previously executed charge, wherein said previously executed charge is provided to said participant in an online billing statement;

retrieving, at said authorization system, information from said loyalty program database, including an amount of at least a portion of said loyalty points accumulated by said participant;

performing, at said authorization system, an analysis of said merchant identifier to determine a conversion ratio based on said merchant identifier and based on either a date of said transaction, inventory data, status of said participant, or method of facilitating said transaction;

presenting, by said authorization system, said participant with a request to approve said conversion ratio;

receiving, from said authorization system, an indicator of at least one of: an approval and disapproval of said conversion ratio from said participant, wherein said transaction is canceled in response to said indicator being a disapproval of said conversion ratio;

receiving a request, from said authorization system over a web interface, from said participant to convert said loyalty points already existing in said loyalty program database to said currency value using said conversion ratio;

retrieving, at said authorization system in real time, said loyalty points from said loyalty program database system;

converting, by said authorization system in real time, said amount of said loyalty points to said currency value using a computerized conversion processor, wherein said conversion is based on said conversion ratio;

applying, by said authorization system in real time, said currency value as a credit to a financial account of said participant, wherein said financial account is stored on a second database system and offsetting, by said computer over said web interface and in real time, said previously executed charge with said currency value; and,

increasing, at said authorization system and in real time, said available credit based upon said offset of said previously executed charge.

34. (currently amended) A The method of claim 33, wherein at least one of the steps occur online.

35. (currently amended) A The method of claim 33, wherein at least one of the steps are facilitated with a wireless-enabled communication device.

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, further comprising the steps of: browsing said merchant's online web site for merchandise; selecting a product to purchase using loyalty points by selecting an appropriate icon; designating said participant's financial transaction account to be associated with said loyalty program, wherein said currency credit is posted to said financial transaction account.

37. (currently amended) A method for facilitating a transaction using loyalty points associated with a secondary transaction number, comprising the steps of:

registering, ~~at by~~ a computer, a participant to participate in a loyalty program; establishing, by said computer, a loyalty account associated with said participant; receiving, ~~at by~~ said computer, a payment authorization request related to an available credit for a full purchase amount of a transaction, wherein said payment authorization request includes a merchant identifier;

~~issuing, by said computer, a challenge based on said payment authorization request and forwarding said challenge to said participant, wherein said challenge is passed to an intelligent token for processing said challenge, wherein said intelligent token generates a response to said challenge;~~

~~receiving, at said computer, a response from said participant based upon said challenge; processing, at said computer, said response and verifying said intelligent token; assembling, at said computer, credentials for said payment authorization request, wherein said credentials comprise a key;~~

~~providing, by said computer, said assembled credentials to said participant;~~

~~receiving, at said computer, a second request from said participant, said second request including said portion of said assembled credentials provided to said participant;~~

~~validating, at said computer, said portion of said assembled credentials provided to said participant with said key of said assembled credentials providing access to purchase said account code;~~

~~determining, at said computer, in response to said account code being equal to one of a plurality of valid account codes, wherein in response to said account code being equal to one of said plurality of valid account codes, comparing said purchase value to said monetary value associated with said account code to determine when said monetary value exceeds said purchase value;~~

~~in response to said monetary value exceeding said purchase value, sending a purchase authorization message authorizing said purchase transaction;~~

~~subtracting, at said computer, said purchase value from said monetary value associated with said account code to obtain an available credit associated with said account code;~~

~~approving, by said computer, said payment authorization request associated with said account code for any of said full purchase amount up to said available credit;~~

~~increasing, by said computer, a balance of loyalty points associated with said account code to obtain an increased balance of loyalty points, subsequent to said approving said payment authorization request, and based upon loyalty program rules for earning loyalty points;~~

~~providing, by said computer and over a web interface, a webpage disclosing said transaction and said full purchase amount in a first section of said webpage, and a balance of loyalty points in a second section of said webpage, along with a device within said webpage for enabling application of a currency value of at least a portion of said increased balance of said loyalty points to said full purchase amount in a previously executed charge, wherein said previously executed charge is provided to said participant in an online billing statement;~~

~~receiving, at by said computer and from said participant using said device, a request to apply a currency value of said loyalty points to at least a portion of said full purchase amount;~~

~~retrieving, by said computer, information from said loyalty program database, including an amount of at least a portion of said loyalty points accumulated by said participant;~~

~~performing, by said computer, an analysis of said merchant identifier to determine a conversion ratio based on said merchant identifier and based on either a date of said transaction, inventory data, status of said participant, or method of facilitating said transaction;~~

presenting, by said computer, said participant with a request to approve said conversion ratio;

receiving, by said computer, an indicator of at least one of: an approval and disapproval of said conversion ratio from said participant, wherein said transaction is canceled in response to said indicator being a disapproval of said conversion ratio;

receiving a request, by said computer over a web interface, from said participant to convert said loyalty points already existing in said loyalty program database to said currency value using said conversion ratio;

retrieving, by said computer in real time, said loyalty points from said loyalty program database system;

converting, by said computer in real time, said amount of said loyalty points to said currency value using a computerized conversion processor, wherein said conversion is based on said conversion ratio;

applying, by said computer in real time, said currency value as a credit to a financial account of said participant, wherein said financial account is stored on a second database system;

offsetting, by said computer over said web interface and in real time, said previously executed charge with said currency value; and,

increasing, by said computer and in real time, said available credit based upon said offset of said previously executed charge.

38. (currently amended) An account manager system for facilitating a transaction within a shopping network using loyalty points, comprising:

~~at least one~~ a user interface system configured to facilitate communication with a shopping network and loyalty program participants, said shopping network comprising at least one merchant, wherein said shopping network is configured to provide to said participants a catalog of goods and services offered by said at least one merchant and operative to permit said participants to select goods and services from said catalog and to submit a request to obtain said goods and services in exchange for loyalty points;

a loyalty program system comprising at least a first computerized database system for managing loyalty program accounts, wherein said loyalty program system performs the steps of:

a financial transaction account system comprising at least a second computerized database system for managing financial transaction accounts of said participants;

a conversion system for converting loyalty points to a currency value credit;
a loyalty program middleware system configured to invoke said conversion system to:

receive, at by a computer, a payment authorization request related to an available credit for a full purchase amount of a transaction, wherein said payment authorization request includes a merchant identifier;

~~issue, by said computer, a challenge based on said payment authorization request and forwarding said challenge to said participant, wherein said challenge is passed to an intelligent token for processing said challenge, wherein said intelligent token generates a response to said challenge;~~

~~receive, at said computer, a response from said participant based upon said challenge;~~

~~process, at said computer, said response and verifying said intelligent token;~~

~~assemble, at said computer, credentials for said payment authorization request, wherein said credentials comprise a key;~~

~~provide, by said computer, said assembled credentials to said participant;~~

~~receive, at said computer, a second request from said participant, said second request including said portion of said assembled credentials provided to said participant;~~

~~validate, at said computer, said portion of said assembled credentials provided to said participant with said key of said assembled credentials providing access to purchase said account code;~~

~~determine, at said computer, in response to said account code being equal to one of a plurality of valid account codes, wherein in response to said account code being equal to one of said plurality of valid account codes, comparing said purchase value to said monetary value associated with said account code to determine when said monetary value exceeds said purchase value;~~

~~in response to said monetary value exceeding said purchase value, sending a purchase authorization message authorizing said purchase transaction; and~~

~~subtract, at said computer, said purchase value from said monetary value associated with said account code to obtain an available credit associated with said account code;~~

~~approve, by said computer, said payment authorization request associated with said account code for any of said full purchase amount up to said available credit;~~

increasing, by said computer, a balance of loyalty points associated with said account code to obtain an increased balance of loyalty points, subsequent to said approving said payment authorization request, and based upon loyalty program rules for earning loyalty points;

provide, by said computer and over a web interface, a webpage disclosing said transaction and said full purchase amount in a first section of said webpage, and said increased balance of loyalty points in a second section of said webpage, along with a device within said webpage for enabling application of a currency value of at least a portion of said increased balance of said loyalty points to said full purchase amount in a previously executed charge, wherein said previously executed charge is provided to said participant in an online billing statement;

receive, at by said computer and from said participant using said device, a request to apply a currency value of said loyalty points to at least a portion of said full purchase amount;

retrieve, by said computer, information from said loyalty program database, including an amount of at least a portion of said loyalty points accumulated by said participant;

perform, by said computer, an analysis of said merchant identifier to determine a conversion ratio based on said merchant identifier and based on either a date of said transaction, inventory data, status of said participant, or method of facilitating said transaction;

present, by said computer, said participant with a request to approve said conversion ratio;

receive, by said computer, an indicator of at least one of: an approval and disapproval of said conversion ratio from said participant, wherein said transaction is canceled in response to said indicator being a disapproval of said conversion ratio;

receive a request, by said computer over a web interface, from said participant to convert said loyalty points already existing in said loyalty program database to said currency value using said conversion ratio;

retrieve, by said computer in real time, said loyalty points from said loyalty program database system;

said financial transaction account system for applying, in real time, said currency value as a credit to a financial account of said participant, wherein said financial account is stored on a second database system and offsetting a previously executed charge with said currency value; and,

said financial transaction account system for increasing said available credit due to said offset of said previously executed charge.

39. (previously presented) The system of claim 38, said financial transaction account system further comprising:

a financial capture system configured to capture and process transaction details;

an accounts receivable system configured to post transaction card charges and loyalty point credits to said transaction card accounts.

40. (previously presented) The system of claim 38, said transaction card system further comprising:

a charge authorization system configured to compare transaction details with participants' transaction card accounts and participants' loyalty program accounts, wherein said charge authorization system verifies that participants' have sufficient loyalty points and credit limit.

41. (previously presented) The system of claim 38, said conversion system further comprising:

at least a third computerized database system of conversion ratios, wherein said conversion ratios vary according to merchant or participant status;

a conversion processor for converting loyalty points to loyalty currency credit using said conversion ratio that is appropriate for said particular participant or merchant.

42. (previously presented) The data-processing method of claim 1, wherein said account code is created using said account provider system having:

a database logically separated into a first subsection, a second subsection, a third subsection and an object repository, wherein said first subsection, said second subsection and said third subsection are logically separated via a firewall;

said first subsection containing a high-level key class of objects and a first plurality of secondary classes of objects derived from said high-level key class of objects, wherein each of said first plurality of secondary classes of objects define a business unit;

 said second subsection containing a high-level secondary class of objects and a second plurality of secondary classes of objects derived from said high-level secondary class of objects, wherein each of said second plurality of secondary classes of objects define one of said plurality of account codes and, wherein said second plurality of secondary classes of objects inherit attributes from said high-level key class of objects;

 said third subsection containing a high-level intermediate class of objects and a third plurality of secondary classes of objects derived from said high-level intermediate class of objects, wherein each of said third plurality of secondary classes of objects define at least one of a geographic region and a business sub-unit and, wherein said third plurality of secondary classes of objects inherit attributes from at least one of said high-level key class of objects and said high-level secondary class of objects; and,

 said object repository including a plurality of reusable classes from which said high-level key class of objects, said high-level intermediate class of objects, and said high-level secondary class of objects are derived and, wherein each of said second plurality of secondary classes of objects is associated with one of said plurality of account codes.

43. (Previously presented) A method for offsetting a previously incurred charge related to a transaction, said method comprising:

 receiving, at by a computer, an account code, a merchant identifier and a payment authorization request for a full purchase amount of said transaction;

 verifying, by said computer, said account code;

 approving, by said computer, said payment authorization request for any of said full purchase amount up to said available credit associated with said account code;

 increasing, by said computer, a balance of loyalty points associated with said account code to obtain an increased balance of loyalty points, subsequent to said approving said payment authorization request, and based upon loyalty program rules for earning loyalty points;

 providing, by said computer and over a web interface, a webpage disclosing said transaction and said full purchase amount in a first section of said webpage, and said increased

balance of said loyalty points in a second section of said webpage, along with a device within said webpage for enabling application of a currency value of at least a portion of said loyalty points to said full purchase amount in a previously executed charge, wherein said previously executed charge is provided in an online billing statement;

receiving, at by said computer and from said device, a request to apply a currency value of at least a portion of said increased balance of said loyalty points to at least a portion of said full purchase amount;

retrieving, by said computer, information from a loyalty program database, including an amount of at least a portion of said loyalty points accumulated;

performing, by said computer, an analysis of said merchant identifier to determine a conversion ratio based on said merchant identifier and based on at least one of a date of said transaction, inventory data, status of said account code, or method of facilitating said transaction;

presenting, by said computer and over said web interface, a request to approve said conversion ratio;

receiving, by said computer and over said web interface, an indicator of an approval of said conversion ratio and an approval to convert at least a portion of said loyalty points already existing in said loyalty program database to said currency value using said conversion ratio;

retrieving, by said computer in real time, said loyalty points from said loyalty program database system;

converting, by said computer in real time, said amount of said loyalty points to said currency value using a computerized conversion processor, wherein said conversion is based on said conversion ratio;

applying, by said computer in real time, said currency value as a credit to said account code;

offsetting, by said computer over said web interface and in real time, said previously executed charge with said currency value; and,

increasing, by said computer and in real time, said available credit associated with said account code, based upon said offset of said previously executed charge.

44. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

issuing, by said computer, a challenge based on said payment authorization request and forwarding said challenge to said participant, wherein said challenge is passed to an intelligent

token for processing said challenge, wherein said intelligent token generates a response to said challenge;

receiving, by said computer, a response from said participant based upon said challenge; processing, by said computer, said response and verifying said intelligent token;

assembling, by said computer, credentials for said payment authorization request, wherein said credentials comprise a key;

providing, by said computer, said assembled credentials to said participant;

receiving, by said computer, a second request from said participant, wherein said second request including said portion of said assembled credentials provided to said participant;

validating, by said computer, said portion of said assembled credentials provided to said participant with said key of said assembled credentials providing access to purchase said account code;

determining, by said computer, in response to said account code being equal to one of a plurality of valid account codes, wherein in response to said account code being equal to one of said plurality of valid account codes, comparing said purchase value to said monetary value associated with said account code to determine when said monetary value exceeds said purchase value;

in response to said monetary value exceeding said purchase value, sending a purchase authorization message authorizing said purchase transaction; and

subtracting said purchase value from said monetary value associated with said account code to obtain an available credit associated with said account code.

45. (New) The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

issuing, by said computer, a challenge based on said payment authorization request and forwarding said challenge to said participant, wherein said challenge is passed to an intelligent token for processing said challenge, wherein said intelligent token generates a response to said challenge;

receiving, by said computer, a response from said participant based upon said challenge;

processing, by said computer, said response and verifying said intelligent token;

assembling, by said computer, credentials for said payment authorization request, wherein said credentials comprise a key;

providing, by said computer, said assembled credentials to said participant;

receiving, by said computer, a second request from said participant, said second request including said portion of said assembled credentials provided to said participant;

validating, by said computer, said portion of said assembled credentials provided to said participant with said key of said assembled credentials providing access to purchase said account code;

determining, by said computer, in response to said account code being equal to one of a plurality of valid account codes, wherein in response to said account code being equal to one of said plurality of valid account codes, comparing said purchase value to said monetary value associated with said account code to determine when said monetary value exceeds said purchase value;

in response to said monetary value exceeding said purchase value, sending a purchase authorization message authorizing said purchase transaction; and

subtracting said purchase value from said monetary value associated with said account code to obtain an available credit associated with said account code.

46. (New) The system of claim 19, further comprising:

said computerized transaction authorization manager configured to issue a challenge based on said payment authorization request and forwarding said challenge to said participant, wherein said challenge is passed to an intelligent token for processing said challenge, wherein said intelligent token generates a response to said challenge;

said computerized transaction authorization manager configured to receive a response from said participant based upon said challenge;

said computerized transaction authorization manager configured to process said response and verifying said intelligent token;

said computerized transaction authorization manager configured to assemble credentials for said payment authorization request, wherein said credentials comprise a key;

said computerized transaction authorization manager configured to provide said assembled credentials to said participant;

said computerized transaction authorization manager configured to receive a second request from said participant, said second request including said portion of said assembled credentials provided to said participant;

said computerized transaction authorization manager configured to validate said portion of said assembled credentials provided to said participant with said key of said assembled credentials providing access to purchase said account code;

 said computerized transaction authorization manager configured to determine in response to said account code being equal to one of a plurality of valid account codes, wherein in response to said account code being equal to one of said plurality of valid account codes, comparing said purchase value to said monetary value associated with said account code to determine when said monetary value exceeds said purchase value;

 in response to said monetary value exceeding said purchase value, sending a purchase authorization message authorizing said purchase transaction; and

 said computerized transaction authorization manager configured to subtract said purchase value from said monetary value associated with said account code to obtain an available credit associated with said account code.

47. (New) The method of claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

 issuing, by said computer, a challenge based on said payment authorization request and forwarding said challenge to said participant, wherein said challenge is passed to an intelligent token for processing said challenge, wherein said intelligent token generates a response to said challenge;

 receiving, by said computer, a response from said participant based upon said challenge;

 processing, by said computer, said response and verifying said intelligent token;

 assembling, by said computer, credentials for said payment authorization request, wherein said credentials comprise a key;

 providing, by said computer, said assembled credentials to said participant;

 receiving, by said computer, a second request from said participant, said second request including said portion of said assembled credentials provided to said participant;

 validating, by said computer, said portion of said assembled credentials provided to said participant with said key of said assembled credentials providing access to purchase said account code;

 determining, by said computer, in response to said account code being equal to one of a plurality of valid account codes, wherein in response to said account code being equal to one of said plurality of valid account codes, comparing said purchase value to said monetary value

associated with said account code to determine when said monetary value exceeds said purchase value;

in response to said monetary value exceeding said purchase value, sending a purchase authorization message authorizing said purchase transaction; and
subtracting, by said computer, said purchase value from said monetary value associated with said account code to obtain an available credit associated with said account code.

48. (New) The method of claim 33, further comprising the steps of:

issuing, by said authorization system, a challenge based on said payment authorization request and forwarding said challenge to said participant, wherein said challenge is passed to an intelligent token for processing said challenge, wherein said intelligent token generates a response to said challenge;

receiving, by said authorization system, a response from said participant based upon said challenge;

processing, by said authorization system, said response and verifying said intelligent token;

assembling, by said authorization system, credentials for said payment authorization request, wherein said credentials comprise a key;

providing, by said authorization system, said assembled credentials to said participant;

receiving, at said authorization system, a second request from said participant, said second request including said portion of said assembled credentials provided to said participant;

validating, by said authorization system, said portion of said assembled credentials provided to said participant with said key of said assembled credentials providing access to purchase said account code;

determining, by said authorization system, in response to said account code being equal to one of a plurality of valid account codes, wherein in response to said account code being equal to one of said plurality of valid account codes, comparing said purchase value to said monetary value associated with said account code to determine when said monetary value exceeds said purchase value;

in response to said monetary value exceeding said purchase value, sending a purchase authorization message authorizing said purchase transaction for any of said full purchase amount up to said available credit; and

subtracting, by said authorization system, said purchase value from said monetary value associated with said account code to obtain an available credit associated with said account code.

49. (New) The method of claim 37, further comprising the steps of:

issuing, by said computer, a challenge based on said payment authorization request and forwarding said challenge to said participant, wherein said challenge is passed to an intelligent token for processing said challenge, wherein said intelligent token generates a response to said challenge;

receiving, by said computer, a response from said participant based upon said challenge;

processing, by said computer, said response and verifying said intelligent token;

assembling, by said computer, credentials for said payment authorization request, wherein said credentials comprise a key;

providing, by said computer, said assembled credentials to said participant;

receiving, by said computer, a second request from said participant, said second request including said portion of said assembled credentials provided to said participant;

validating, by said computer, said portion of said assembled credentials provided to said participant with said key of said assembled credentials providing access to purchase said account code;

determining, by said computer, in response to said account code being equal to one of a plurality of valid account codes, wherein in response to said account code being equal to one of said plurality of valid account codes, comparing said purchase value to said monetary value associated with said account code to determine when said monetary value exceeds said purchase value;

in response to said monetary value exceeding said purchase value, sending a purchase authorization message authorizing said purchase transaction; and

subtracting, at said computer, said purchase value from said monetary value associated with said account code to obtain an available credit associated with said account code.

50. (New) The system of claim 38, further comprising:

issue, by said computer, a challenge based on said payment authorization request and forwarding said challenge to said participant, wherein said challenge is passed to an intelligent token for processing said challenge, wherein said intelligent token generates a response to said challenge;

receive, by said computer, a response from said participant based upon said challenge;

process, by said computer, said response and verifying said intelligent token; assemble, by said computer, credentials for said payment authorization request, wherein said credentials comprise a key; provide, by said computer, said assembled credentials to said participant; receive, by said computer, a second request from said participant, said second request including said portion of said assembled credentials provided to said participant; validate, by said computer, said portion of said assembled credentials provided to said participant with said key of said assembled credentials providing access to purchase said account code; determine, by said computer, in response to said account code being equal to one of a plurality of valid account codes, wherein in response to said account code being equal to one of said plurality of valid account codes, comparing said purchase value to said monetary value associated with said account code to determine when said monetary value exceeds said purchase value; in response to said monetary value exceeding said purchase value, sending a purchase authorization message authorizing said purchase transaction; and subtract, at said computer, said purchase value from said monetary value associated with said account code to obtain an available credit associated with said account code.